

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A polarizer comprising a film having a structure having a minute domain dispersed in a matrix formed of a translucent water-soluble resin including an iodine light absorbing material.

5 2. The polarizer according to Claim 1, wherein the minute domain is formed of an oriented birefringent material.

3. The polarizer according to Claim 2, wherein the birefringent material shows liquid crystalline at least in orientation processing step.

10 4. The polarizer according to Claim 2, wherein the minute domain has 0.02 or more of birefringence.

5. The polarizer according to Claim 2, wherein in a refractive index difference between the birefringent material forming the minute domain and the translucent water-soluble 15 resin in each optical axis direction,

a refractive index difference (Δn^1) in direction of axis showing a maximum is 0.03 or more, and

20 a refractive index difference (Δn^2) between the Δn^1 direction and a direction of axes of two directions perpendicular to the Δn^1 direction is 50% or less of the Δn^1 .

6. The polarizer according to Claim 1, wherein an absorption axis of the iodine light absorbing material is oriented in the Δn^1 direction.

25 7. The polarizer according to Claim 1, wherein the film is manufactured by stretching.

8. The polarizer according to Claim 1, wherein the minute d main has a length of 0.05 through 500 μm in the Δn^2 direction.

9. The polarizer according to Claim 1, wherein an iodine light absorbing material has an absorbing band at least in a band of 400 through 700 nm wavelength range.

10. The polarizer according to Claim 1, wherein a transmittance to a linearly polarized light in a transmission direction is 80% or more,

a haze value is 5% or less , and

10 a haze value to a linearly polarized light in an absorption direction is 30% or more.

11. A polarizing plate having a transparent protective layer formed at least on one side of the polarizer according to Claim 1.

15 12. An optical film having at least one of the polarizer according to Claim 1 or the polarizing plate according to Claim 11.

20 13. An image display comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of the polarizer according to Claim 1, the polarizing plate according to Claim 11, and the optical film according to Claim 12.